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Fifty-second session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (a)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela: draft resolution

International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/171 of 22 December 1995, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1997/104 of 3 April 1997,

Mindful that the International Covenants on Human Rights[1] constitute the first all-embracing and legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights and, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] form the core of the International Bill of Human Rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General[3] on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

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[1] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] A/52/446.

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Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and reaffirming that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interrelated and that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt or excuse States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as major parts of international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. Appeals strongly to all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to accede to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to make the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant;

3. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to intensify systematic efforts to encourage States to become parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights and, through the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, to assist such States, at their request, in ratifying or acceding to the Covenants and to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

4. Emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, where applicable, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. Stresses the importance of avoiding the erosion of human rights by derogation, and underlines the necessity of strict observance of the agreed conditions and procedures for derogation under article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bearing in mind the need for States parties to provide the fullest possible information during states of emergency, so that the justification for the appropriateness of measures taken in these circumstances can be assessed;

6. Also stresses the importance of fully taking into account the gender perspective in the implementation of the International Covenants on Human Rights at the national level, including the national reports, and in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

7. Encourages the States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to

formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise contrary to international law;

8. Also encourages the States parties to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights with a view to withdrawing them;

9. Takes note with appreciation of the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-first[4] and fifty-second sessions;[5]

10. Also takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its twelfth and thirteenth,[6] and fourteenth and fifteenth[7] sessions;

11. Invites the Committees to identify specific needs of States parties that might be addressed through the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the possible participation of members of the Committees where appropriate;

12. Welcomes the continuing efforts of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights, and appeals to other bodies dealing with similar human rights questions to respect these uniform standards, as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

13. Urges States parties to fulfil in good time such reporting obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights as may be requested and in their reports to make use of gender-disaggregated data;

14. Also urges States parties to take duly into account, in implementing the provisions of the International Covenants on Human Rights, the observations made at the conclusion of the consideration of their reports by the Human Rights Committee and by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the views adopted by the Human Rights Committee under the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

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[4] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/51/40).

[5] Ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/52/40).

[6] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 2 (E/1996/22).

[7] Ibid., 1997, Supplement No. 2 (E/1997/22).

15. Invites States parties to give particular attention to the dissemination at the national level of the reports they have submitted to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the summary records relating to the examination of those reports by the Committees and the observations made by the Committees at the conclusion of the consideration of the reports;

16. Encourages once again all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many local languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of assisting States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights in the preparation of their reports, including seminars or workshops at the national level for the purpose of training government officials engaged in the preparation of such reports, and the exploration of other possibilities available under the regular programme of advisory services in the field of human rights;

18. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights effectively assists the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the implementation of their respective mandates, including by the provision of adequate Secretariat staff resources;

19. Once again urges the Secretary-General, taking into account the suggestions of the Human Rights Committee, to take determined steps, in particular through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to give more publicity to the work of that Committee and, similarly, to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Human rights questions", a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations.

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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 110

ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mexico, Turkey and United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[2] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,[3]

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* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 429, No. 6193.

Recalling also the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978 and in 1983,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[4] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance and sensitivity of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Noting with grave concern, that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern, that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase,

Noting with concern that technological developments in the field of communication, including computer networks such as the Internet, have been used for the dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda throughout the world,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General[5] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony,

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

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[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[5] A/52/528.

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families,[6]

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

I

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities

1. Declares once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, whether in their institutionalized form or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

2. Recalls with satisfaction the proclamation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, and requests the Secretary-General to make a further review of the Programme of Action with a view to making it more effective and action-oriented;

3. Urges all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by adapting constantly the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

4. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give the highest priority, through her Office and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, to the follow-up of programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;

6. Calls upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority;

7. Commends all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination;

8. Encourages the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

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[6] Resolution 45/158, annex.

9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers, in the fields of education, training and employment, and to submit, inter alia, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination;

10. Regrets the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action, reflected in the fact that very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 were carried out;

11. Regrets also that the contributions made by the international community to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade remain below the level required and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the fifty-third session of the General Assembly concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including, inter alia, through the United Nations regular budget;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the two seminars held on the implementation of the Programme of Action concerning migration, racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

13. Recommends that activities being organized to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include programmes specifically targeted at combating racism and racial discrimination;

14. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take duly into account, within the framework of the ongoing restructuring process of the Centre for Human Rights, the repeated appeals of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism within the Centre for Human Rights for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade before they are carried out by the United Nations;

15. Considers that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are indispensable for the implementation of the Programme;

16. Urges the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

17. Requests States to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

18. Strongly underlines the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating

an awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and in this regard renews its invitation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

19. Considers that all parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Decade;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 1996-1997;

21. Also requests the Secretary-General to accord the highest priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

22. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

23. Invites the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

24. Invites all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, and interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to participate fully in the Third Decade;

25. Strongly appeals to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

II

World conference against racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

1. Decides to convene a world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, whose main objectives will be:

(a) To review progress made in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly since the

adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to reappraise the obstacles to further progress in the field and ways to overcome them;

(b) To consider ways and means better to ensure the application of existing standards and the implementation of the existing instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) To increase the level of awareness about the scourges of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) To formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the activities and mechanisms of the United Nations through programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) To review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and other factors leading to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(f) To formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) To draw up concrete recommendations for ensuring that the United Nations has the financial and other necessary resources for its actions to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. Decides also:

(a) That the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be convened not later than the year 2001;

(b) That, when deciding on the agenda of the world conference, to take into consideration, inter alia, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(c) That the world conference will be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

(d) That the Commission on Human Rights will act as the preparatory committee for the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that its deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice;

3. Requests Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations,

non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and other human rights mechanisms to assist the preparatory committee, to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the conference and the preparations therefor to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General, and to participate actively in the conference;

4. Stresses the importance of taking systematically into account a gender perspective throughout the preparations for and the outcome of the conference;

5. Calls upon States and regional organizations to hold national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives in preparation for the world conference and requests regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. Decides further that the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be conducted effectively and efficiently and that its size, duration and other cost factors should be determined with due regard for economy;

7. Decides to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of the highest priority at its fifty-third session.

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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mexico, Turkey and United Republic of Tanzania*:
revised draft resolution

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[2] and the

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,[3]

Recalling also the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978 and in 1983,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[4] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance and sensitivity of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, by which, respectively, it proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and adopted the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two previous Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase,

Noting with concern that technological developments in the field of communications, including computer networks such as the Internet, have been used for the dissemination of racist and xenophobic propaganda throughout the world,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General[5] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade,

Firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony,

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[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 429, No. 6193.

[4] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[5] A/52/528.

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[6]

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

I

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities

1. Declares once again that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, whether in their institutionalized form or resulting from official doctrines of racial superiority or exclusivity, such as ethnic cleansing, are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world and must be combated by all available means;

2. Recalls with satisfaction the proclamation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, and requests the Secretary-General to make a further review of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade with a view to making it more effective and action-oriented;

3. Urges all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by adapting constantly the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

4. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give a high priority to the follow-up of programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to accord special attention to the situation of migrant workers and members of their families and to include regularly in his reports all information on such workers;

6. Calls upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority;

7. Commends all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination;

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[6] Resolution 45/158, annex.

8. Encourages the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities, and those of migrant workers, in the fields of education, training and employment, and to submit, inter alia, specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat the effects of that discrimination;

10. Regrets the lack of interest, support and financial resources for the Third Decade and its related Programme of Action, reflected in the fact that very few of the activities planned for the period 1994-1997 were carried out;

11. Also regrets that the contributions made by the international community to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination remain below the level required and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including, inter alia, through the United Nations regular budget and extrabudgetary sources;

12. Welcomes the convening, in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, of a seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the two seminars held on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade concerning migration, racism and racial discrimination and the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

14. Recommends that the activities being organized to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include programmes specifically targeted at combating racism and racial discrimination;

15. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take duly into account the repeated appeals of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for the establishment of a mechanism for coordinating all the activities of the Third Decade;

16. Considers that voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination are indispensable for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

17. Urges the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, all Governments, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

18. Requests States and international organizations to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

19. Strongly underlines the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating an awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and in this regard renews its invitation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to expedite the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

20. Considers that all parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Decade;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 1998-1999;

22. Also requests the Secretary-General to accord a high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

23. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

24. Invites the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly with a view to supplementing, if necessary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade;

25. Invites all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and interested non-governmental organizations to participate fully in the Third Decade;

26. Strongly appeals to all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and to this end requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake appropriate contacts and initiatives to encourage contributions;

II

World conference against racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

1. Decides to convene a world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, whose main objectives will be:

(a) To review progress made in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to reappraise the obstacles to further progress in the field and ways to overcome them;

(b) To consider ways and means to better ensure the application of existing standards and the implementation of the existing instruments to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) To increase the level of awareness about the scourges of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(d) To formulate concrete recommendations on ways to increase the effectiveness of the activities and mechanisms of the United Nations through programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(e) To review the political, historical, economic, social, cultural and other factors leading to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(f) To formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional and international measures to combat all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) To draw up concrete recommendations for ensuring that the United Nations has the financial and other necessary resources for its actions to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

2. Also decides:

(a) That the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be convened not later than the year 2001;

(b) That, when the agenda of the world conference is decided, there will be a taking into consideration of, inter alia, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(c) That the world conference will be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

(d) That the Commission on Human Rights will act as the preparatory committee for the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that its deliberations should be open-

ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice;

3. Requests Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and other human rights mechanisms to assist the preparatory committee, to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the conference and the preparations therefor to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General, and to participate actively in the conference;

4. Stresses the importance of taking systematically into account a gender perspective throughout the preparations for and the outcome of the conference;

5. Calls upon States and regional organizations to hold national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives in preparation for the world conference and requests the regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the preparatory committee through the Secretary-General on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. Decides that the world conference on racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance will be conducted effectively and efficiently and that its size, duration and other cost factors should be determined with due regard for economy;

7. Also decides to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" in its agenda and to consider it as a matter of high priority at its fifty-third session.